



The Montessori Academy of Arlington

UPPER ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM ORIENTATION AND GUIDELINES





COMMUNICATION

Communication between the classroom teacher and parents is key to a successful year. If you need to contact your child's teacher, a voicemail can be left at the main TMA number (817-274-1548) or emails can be sent (rdotson@tmaonline.org or pbarnes@tmaonline.org). Email and voicemail will be checked throughout the day, though email is likely the quickest way to reach your child's teacher.

If there is a time-sensitive issue, your contact information in our database will be used. Please make sure it is updated on ParentsWeb.

MONDAY TAKE-HOME FOLDERS

Your child's take-home folder will be sent home each Monday. It will include:

- a portion of your child's written work for the previous week (some work stays in the classroom),
- their work plan for the past week, and
- any other important information.

Please take the time to look through your child's folder each week and keep your child's written work at home.

Work Plan

The back of the work plan may include written comments regarding your child's work or behavior for the week or a suggestion for future weeks. Please do not be alarmed if there is nothing written here; if your child is on track and meeting expectations, then you likely will not see a comment. **Please sign and return your child's work plan in the empty folder on Tuesday morning.** A copy of the work plan is attached.

Homework

Homework is part of the Practical Life curriculum for Upper Elementary students. Students are expected to complete one homework assignment **each week**: a **minimum** of 60 minutes of online work via IXL. A letter is attached which includes an outline of the IXL program, weekly requirements, and your child's username and password. **IXL homework begins the first week of school and the teachers will check the following Monday morning to ensure that the 60 minute minimum was met.**



The work plan will include the number of minutes of IXL homework your child completed for the previous week. **Failing to meet the minimum number of minutes each week will affect their homework grade on their Progress Reports.**

Continued issues will result in a parent/student/teacher conference.

Each week, students will complete timed math facts tests in the classroom. The tests consist of 75-100 multiplication or division facts that should be accurately completed in 5 minutes or less. If, after the first few weeks, a child is having difficulty meeting this standard, math tests will be sent home for practice. **Please make sure any tests sent home are completed.** Decimals, fractions, square roots, and cubing are even more challenging if a student is still struggling with basic multiplication and division facts.



MEAL GUIDELINES

Lunch

Lunch is from 11:00 - 11:30. Each child should bring the following items from home:

- A placement
- A napkin (preferably cloth)
- Silverware, as appropriate for their lunch
- Lunch in appropriate containers to eat from and/or for heating up lunch

Snack

Upper Elementary children prefer to bring their own snack each day. **Please pack an extra snack or two in your child's lunch box.** It is important for students to have enough energy to complete the morning work cycle.

Parties and Pizza Days

Class parties are held in October (Fall Party), November (Thanksgiving Feast), December (Winter Party), February (Valentine's Party), and May (End of Year Party).

- For the Thanksgiving Feast, each child should bring a dish for our potluck lunch.
- To cover the cost of food, drink, and decorations for the other parties, we ask you to please contribute \$5 per party or \$20 total for the year.

The last Friday of each month is Pizza Day. A schedule of days for the year is attached. If your child wishes to participate, the cost is \$4 per child per lunch. There are 10 pizza days throughout the year. You can either pay \$40 at the beginning of the year or \$4 for the months your child

wishes to participate. **If you would like pay for the parties and special lunch days together, please send \$60. If you write a check, please make it out to your classroom teacher (Robin Dotson or Price Barnes).**

Birthdays

It is up to each parent to decide whether you want to celebrate your child's birthday in the classroom. A list of class birthdays is attached. If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday, please inform your classroom teacher of your plans (day and what you will bring).

Healthy treats are strongly encouraged. We have found it is best is to celebrate birthdays during our lunch period (11:00 - 11:30) because the students have recess afterward.

Please note, birthday celebrations should consist only of a healthy treat, not a full lunch purchased for the entire class.

Reminders

No soft drinks or candy (or Lunchables with candy in them) is permitted for lunch or snack. When planning lunches, please consider good nutritional guidelines.

The school will no longer purchase plastic silverware, paper napkins, or paper plates.

To compensate for students with allergies, please be aware that we will adjust seating accordingly so that a child with severe allergies does not come into contact with any allergens.

FIELD TRIPS

We will go on field trips together throughout the year including an extended visit to Nature's Classroom Institute or Heifer International and overnight "camping" at TMA. Please see the attached list of field trips and events for details for the upcoming year.

